

Serial No. 10/579,860

Art Unit: 3742
Examiner: Joseph Moore Pelham**REMARKS**

In response to the Patent Office Letter of September 1, 2009, the Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Also new drawings have been submitted herewith. There has been an indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 14-20 have been allowed and claims 1-3 and 5-13 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter pending correction of objections under 35 U.S.C. §112. In order to afford the Applicant a complete scope of claim coverage, the Applicant has also added claims 21-34.

On page 2 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has made objections to the drawings. The Applicant submits herewith an entire new set of drawings for the application.

On page 2 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has made reference in particular to the claims 1, 11 and 12. However, it is believed that the objection to claim 11 should have referred to claim 10. The following amendments have been made in the claims to overcome these objections. In claim 1 the distributing valve has now been identified as for "operating for filling and emptying the intermediate water storage reservoir." This should provide proper antecedent basis for the "emptying." An amendment has been made in claim 8 to clarify language in claim 8. In claim 10 "and in particular" has been deleted from the claim. In claim 9 a change in wording has been made that is believed to be appropriate. In claim 13 a change has been made that is also believed to be appropriate. Claims 14-20 have been indicated as allowable as they stand.

By the indication of allowable subject matter, it appears clear to the Applicant that the present invention is clear of prior art considered by the Examiner and relating in particular to the use of at least one intermediate water storage reservoir and associated distributing valve which

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enables this filling and emptying sequence for directing a predetermined volume of water to the cooking chamber for the purpose of generating steam.

The Applicant believes that the added claims 21-34 should be found allowable on the same basis as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-20. With respect to claim 21, there is defined an intermediate water storage reservoir having a predetermined interior volume and adapts it to be filled with water provided from the water supply. There is also provided a distributing valve for respectively controlling the filling and emptying of the intermediate water storage reservoir. In claim 21 the valve is defined as having an entrance port coupled to the water supply, an exit port coupled to the storage reservoir and a further exit port coupled to the water supply pipe. The interior volume of the intermediate storage reservoir is adapted to be controlled by the distributing valve for respectively filling and emptying the intermediate water storage reservoir so as to advance the predetermined interior volume of water with the water from the interior volume adapted to be emptied into the cooking chamber via the water outlet for the purpose of generating steam. Accordingly, claim 21 would appear to be clearly allowable based upon the previous indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner. The Applicant has also added dependent claims 22-30 which should also be found in condition for allowance.

The Applicant has also added method claims 31-34 which are believed to be allowable on the same basis as previously discussed. In claim 31 there is provided at least one intermediate water storage reservoir having a predetermined interior volume. The water from the water supply is controlled by means of at least one distributing valve associated with the water storage reservoir for respectively controlling the filling and emptying of the reservoir. Claim 31 recites that, in a first state of the distributing valve, opening the distributing valve so as to fill the interior volume of the water storage reservoir from the water supply and, in a second state of the distributing valve, subsequently opening the distributing valve so as to empty the interior volume of water from the water storage reservoir via a water outlet to the cooking chamber. Claim 31 should be found in condition for allowance as should the associated dependent claims 32-34.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof to our Deposit Account No. 19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
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